

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary D. Yacura on 05/06/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN CLAIM

Claim 22, line 15, after "the current field macroblock" delete ":" and insert --; decoding the current field macroblock using the determined reference field picture.--;

Claim 23 is canceled,

Claim 24, line 1, after "of claim" delete "23" insert—22--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior art does not disclose a method of determining a reference field picture for decoding a current field macroblock in a bi-predictive frame, comprising: determining, by a decoder, a reference frame picture index in a reference picture list for the bi-predictive frame based on a display order; determining, by the decoder, a reference field picture for the current field macroblock from the reference picture list, the determined reference field picture being one of a top field and a bottom field of a reference frame; wherein the determining step determines a field having a same parity as the current field macroblock or a different parity from the current field macroblock as a the reference field picture

based upon reference picture index information, the reference frame picture index, and field parity of the current field macroblock, wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number, then the determined field has a field parity different from the current field marcoblock; decoding the current field macroblock using the determined reference field picture.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday, Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tung Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621